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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 633
By Casada

A RESOLUTION to designate February 1, 2002, as a Black
History Celebration in Franklin.

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should recognize those venerable organizations, institutions, and individuals that enrich the lives of people in their communities; and

WHEREAS, on February 1, 2002, The McLemore House Museum will open in Williamson County, thus culminating a remarkable preservation effort spearheaded by The African American Heritage Society; and

WHEREAS, The African American Heritage Society is one of the many estimable not-for-profit organizations in Tennessee that make invaluable contributions to our cultural fabric; the sole purpose of the AAHS is to collect, preserve, and interpret artifacts pertaining to Williamson County's African American culture for present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, the McLemore House Museum holds a singular position in Williamson County history as the county's first African American preserved structure; a Colonial Revival

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house built in the late 1800s, it was a sterling example of community development in a historical area of Franklin known as Hard Bargain during its era; and

WHEREAS, the home was first owned by a former slave, Harvey McLemore, who left his Lewisburg Pike Farm of bondage and moved to Franklin to begin a new life in fresh surroundings; remarkably, the McLemore House, one of few homes owned by former slaves to remain standing, remained in the McLemore family from 1880 until 1997; and

WHEREAS, the McLemore House Museum will be the first significant structure given to the Williamson County community which details the contributions made by African Americans to the development of the high quality of life now present in Franklin and Williamson County; with assistance from The Heritage Foundation, the House has been added to the National Register of Historic Places; and

WHEREAS, the McLemore House Museum will provide a forum for learning through preservation and cultural awareness; the Museum recreates the original environment of the home in order to foster education, understanding, and appreciation of African American life in the late 1800s; and

WHEREAS, the founders of the Museum hope that it will rekindle interest in the area's cultural heritage, promote growth of the arts through cultural awareness, help to unite diverse cultures, and create a physical space that will function as a catalyst to promote community building; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this Body should pause in its deliberations to honor and commend the good people of the African American Heritage Society and commemorate the historic opening of the McLemore House Museum; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we designate Friday, February 1, 2002, as a Black History Celebration in Franklin in honor of the grand opening of the McLemore House Museum, and we join with the

African American Heritage Society and the people of Williamson County in reflecting on the past, giving thanks for the present, and joyfully looking forward to a future filled with hope.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.